

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 1966

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PINT, JA, US

SUBJ: JAPANESE POLITICAL VISITORS TO WASHINGTON

REFS: (A) TOKYO 1885 (B) TOKYO 1887

SUMMARY. IN ADDITION TO THE WASHINGTON VISITORS ALREADY
REPORTED BOTH THE JSP AND JCP HAVE DECIDED TO SEND A GROUP TO WASHING
TON

TO HANDLE THIS INFLUX OF VISITORS, FONOFF DISPATCHED DEPMIN
ARITA TO WASHINGTON. THIS SUDDEN TRAVEL IS PROMPTED BY THE
LIKELIHOOD THAT WASHINGTON WILL BE THE MAIN SOURCE OF
FURTHER REVELATIONS ABOUT THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR. OPPOSITION
VISITORS WILL BE SEEKING INFORMATION DAMAGING TO THE LDP,
WHILE LDP VISITORS WILL BE PROBING EXTENT OF WASHINGTON
KNOWLEDGE AND LIKELY FUTURE REVELATIONS FOR USE IN PRE-
PARING STATEMENTS, FALLBACK POSITIONS, ETC. WITH LDP AT
LEAST TEMPORARILY ON THE DEFENSIVE, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE
BE CAREFUL NOT TO GIVE EVEN IMPRESSION OF PROVIDING AID TO
LDP'S POLITICAL ENEMIES. END SUMMARY.

1. OVER THE WEEKEND, WE LEARNED THAT JAPAN SOCIALIST PARTY
(JSP) WOULD BE SENDING FOUR MEMBER PARTY FACT FINDING MISSION
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TO WASHINGTON FEBRUARY 9. HEADED BY JSP INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

BUREAU DIRECTOR KANJI KAWASAKI, REMAINDER OF GROUP WILL BE COMPOSED OF LOWER HOUSE JSP MEMBER SHUN OIDE, UPPER HOUSE JSP MEMBER OSAMU YATABE, AND JSP INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BUREAU DEPDIR SHOZO SUGIYAMA. KAWASAKI AND SUGIYAMA ARE CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH JSP SEC GEN ISHIBASHI. KAWASAKI HAS SOHYO ROOTS IN KAGOSHIMA PREFECTURE. OIDE HAS POSTAL WORKER SUPPORT IN YOKOHAMA. YATABE IS A LAWYER IN TOCHIGI PREFECTURE (MITO CITY).

2. AS SOCIALISTS EXPLAINED IT TO US, WASHINGTON MISSION HAS TWO PURPOSES: TO PROBE LOCKHEED AFFAIR AND TO FURTHER US-JAPAN DIALOGUE BEGUN BY LAST YEAR'S EDA MISSION. THEY HAVE REQUESTED APPOINTMENTS WITH SENATORS CONCERNED WITH LOCKHEED THROUGH FONOFF AND JAPANESE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. THEY HAVE ASKED US ONLY FOR HELP IN ARRANGING AN APPOINTMENT WITH EA ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB. GROUP IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN WASHINGTON ABOUT ONE WEEK.

3. AS REPORTED EARLIER, A CGP MISSION (KUROYANAGI, OHMI, AND SANO), A DSP MISSION (NAGASUE), AND AN LDP REPRESENTATIVE (BUNSEI SATO) SHOULD BE NOW HAVE ARRIVED IN WASHINGTON. THE SATO MISSION, INCIDENTALLY, HAS NOW APPEARED IN THE JAPANESE PRESS AND THERE IS NO FURTHER NEED FOR SECRECY ON OUR PART. IN ADDITION, AT LEAST ONE OTHER LDP BIGWIG (FUKUDA) HAS SENT A PRIVATE EMISSARY. THE MEDIA ALSO ARE SENDING ALONG REPORTERS WITH CLOSE PERSONAL TIES TO THE JAPANESE POLITICIANS TRAVELING TO THE US.

4. AFTERNOON PRESS FEBRUARY 9 STATES THAT TWO JCP DIET MEMBERS WILL ALSO SEEK TO VISIT THE US. THEY ARE JCP LOWER HOUSE MEMBER SEIJI MASAMORI (AN OSAKA LAWYER) AND JCP UPPER HOUSE MEMBER ATSUSHI HASHIMOTO (ANOTHER OSAKA LAWYER). WE WILL BE SENDING A SEPARATE CABLE ON THIS IF AND WHEN THEY APPLY FOR VISAS.

5. TO HANDLE THIS INFLUX OF POLITICIANS, FONOFF FEBRUARY 8 DISPATCHED DEPUTY MINISTER KEISUKE ARITA TO WASHINGTON. HE WILL PRESUMABLY ALSO PROVIDE ON-THE-SPOT ADVICE FOR THE FONOFF.

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6. COMMENT. OVER THE WEEKEND IT BECAME REASONABLY CLEAR THAT WASHINGTON WILL BE THE MAIN SOURCE OF FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR. AS A RESULT, POLITICIANS, THE PRESS, AND EVEN THE FONOFF ARE SENDING EMISSARIES TO WASHINGTON. OPPOSITION PARTIES WILL BE SEEKING FURTHER INFORMATION DAMAGING TO THE LDP WHICH MAY BE USED TO ADVANTAGE IN DIET DEBATE AND THE UPCOMING GENERAL ELECTION. LDP EMISSARIES ON THE OTHER HAND, WILL BE PROBING TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT OF INFORMATION

IN SENATE COMMITTEE ANDS AND LIKELY FUTURE WASHINGTON REVELATIONS FOR USE BY GOVERNMENT AND LDP IN FORMULATING OFFICIAL STATEMENTS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE DIET, AND IN MAKING A VARIETY OF TACTICAL DECISIONS ON HOW TO HANDLE THE LOCKHEED MATTER.

7. IF THE JAPANESE VISITORS SEEK STAE DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE, THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE MINDFUL OF THE UNUSUALLY HIGH STAKES INVOLVED. WITH HE LDP CURRENTLY ON THE DEFENSIVE, WE SHOLD BE CAREFUL NOT TO GIVE EVEN THE IMPRSSION OF PROVIDING POLITICAL AMMUNITION TO ITS ENEMIES. WITHIN THAT CONTEXT, HOWEVER, WE SEE NO NEED TO BE LESS THAN NORMALLY COURTEOUS AND HELPFUL TO OPPOSITION PARTY REPRESENTATIVES. SPECIFICALLY, WE SEE NO HARM IN HABIB MEETING WITH THE JSP MISSION.
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